



LEO ROJALES

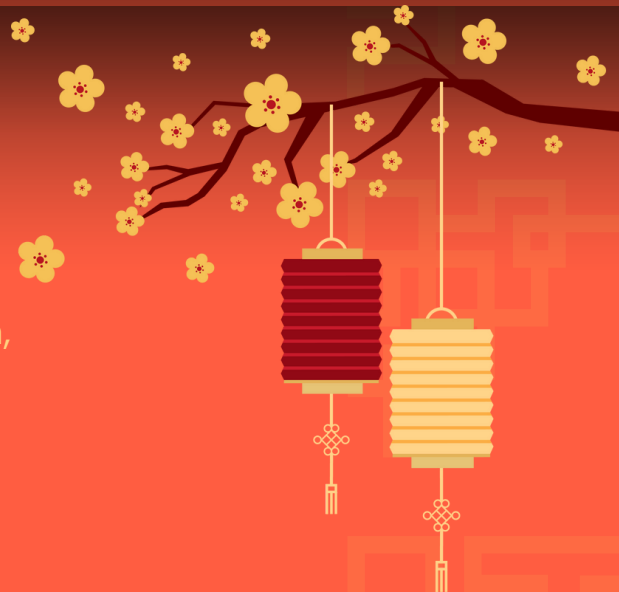
Can you share a brief overview of your cultural background and heritage?

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"I am from a country that has **more than 5,000 islands** and **over 100 dialects**, which is divided into 3 regions Luzon, Visaya and Mindanao, that give each region or some islands it's own unique culture."



-Leo Rojas



CELEBRATING

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

EXPLORING AND LEARNING FROM THE **DIVERSE**
EXPERIENCES OF THE AAPI COMMUNITY



INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

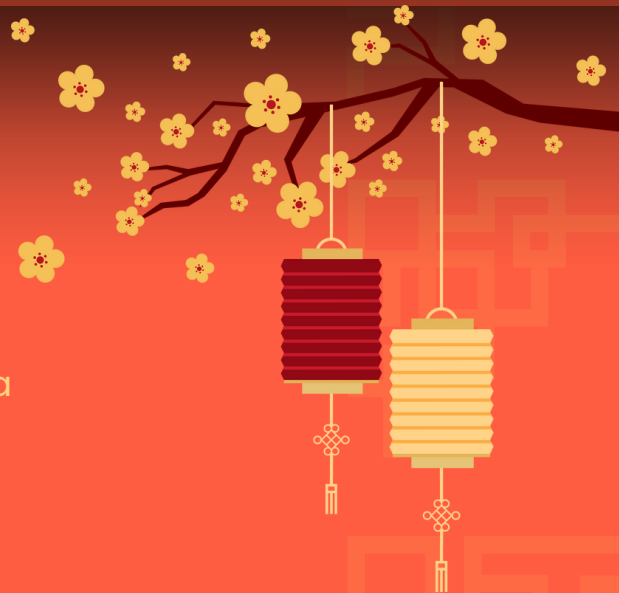
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How has your AAPI heritage influenced your upbringing and family traditions?

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"My heritage has influenced me to be more family-oriented, which is why Christmas and New Year's are significant in our family. Apart from the food, Christmas is a time when we visit as many relatives as possible, adhering to the tradition of elders giving money to the children. On New Year's, many people construct a cannon-like device from bamboo to create the loudest noise possible, coupled with fireworks."

-Leo Rojas



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What aspect of your heritage are you most proud of and why?

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"I am most proud of the human kindness that Filipinos show to others. We, like any other nation, have our exceptions, but for the most part, we open our hearts to everyone. This might be influenced by our thousands of islands and hundreds of dialects."

-Leo Rojas



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What is a unique tradition or custom from your heritage that you'd like to share with others?

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"I'm not sure when it started or how it came to be, but receiving a blessing called 'Mano po' from an elder by holding their hand and putting it on your forehead is very unique. Despite the diversity across different islands, younger kids somehow know how to show respect to elders by performing the 'Mano po' gesture."

-Leo Rojas



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What is a popular form of art or entertainment from your heritage that you enjoy?

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"A popular form of entertainment in the Philippines is singing karaoke. We may not all be singers, but there's always a karaoke machine being shared throughout the neighborhood. Perhaps this stems from the old days when men had to serenade women to secure a date."

-Leo Rojas

Karaoke
PARTY

